



**PROCLAMATION  
CITY OF CASA GRANDE  
MAYOR ROBERT JACKSON**

**Declaring September 18, 2013, as  
"Appreciation Day for William Eddings, Sr."**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Casa Grande has been honored to have community members such as William Eddings, Sr.; and

**WHEREAS**, William "Bill" Eddings, Sr. is a long time Casa Grande resident, educator and leader. He and his family have resided in Casa Grande for almost 60 years. Thirty of those years were spent as an educator. His enthusiasm, innovativeness and genuine concern for literacy were continuously demonstrated during his thirty (30) years of teaching, counseling and mentoring in the Casa Grande schools; and

**WHEREAS**, during the time William Eddings, Sr. has lived in Casa Grande has achieved the following:

- Mr. Eddings began substitute teaching at East School (now Palo Verde Elementary) during the 1955-56 school years. The schools were segregated at that time so all of the students and teachers at East School were African-American.
- He was hired as a full-time instructor at East School for the 1956-57 school years.
- He later became the first African-American teacher assigned to teach at Casa Grande Junior High School.
- He remained in the Casa Grande Elementary School District until the summer of 1969.
- From the fall of 1969 until he retired in 1984, Mr. Eddings serves as a reading instructor and guidance counselor at Casa Grande Union High School.
- When hired by Casa Grande Union, he became the first African-American male instructor and guidance counselor in the district.
- In 1973, Mr. Eddings was elected to the Casa Grande City Council where he served for 16 years. His election made him the first African-American to serve on the City Council.

**WHEREAS**, William Eddings, Sr. firmly believed that education is "the guardian of our culture and is the roadway to the future" and was a strong advocate for all the underserved people of Casa Grande regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or socio-economic status. He consistently demonstrated a cultural awareness, conscientiousness and genuine commitment to serving others; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert M. Jackson., Mayor of the City of Casa Grande do hereby proclaim **September 18, 2013** as "**Appreciation Day for William Eddings, Sr.**"

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of Casa Grande, Arizona.

Done at City Hall of Casa Grande, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2013.

  
Robert M. Jackson, Mayor

Attest:   
Remilie S. Miller, City Clerk

